



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

The Kedron Connection

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Volume 18

March 2019

Issue 3

From Our Pastor

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:24

Fitting and wise admonition for any church in any age. Paul certainly had his apostolic hands full of issues and concerns in Corinth and other congregations. Unity and diversity in the church, idol feasts and the Lord's Supper, lawsuits among believers, a church divided over leadership.

But Paul is an encourager! He believes that what God has done in Jesus Christ can overcome any conflict and division. See the love chapter in 1 Corinthians. It's read at weddings all the time but originally was written as guidance for churches in conflict(!).

So it should be today. Whether at the local church level or as a denomination we can encourage one another and overcome issues that divide. Sadly, and yet always hopeful, this has been the history of the Church. I doubt there has ever been a time of perfect peace that lasted very long! But, the gates of you know what will not prevail over the Church!

So, be hopeful. Be strong. And remember what my piano teacher from childhood always said, "Kindness is the music of life." Kindness in the strife and stride of life is a demonstration of the love Paul says we should be doing whenever we face challenges.

No one ever said being Christian was easy. But no one ever said we have to do it alone! Paul pulls us ALL in on the same journey toward the Kingdom!

Now if we can just remember how best our parents and grandparents and friends in the Church Triumphant, those who have gone on, did the work of the church in love.....we will always find our way!

Peace and grace to you as we push on in 2019!

Pastor Barry

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, March 2. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This will be a time of good fellowship and good food.

Ash Wednesday Service

This year our Ash Wednesday Service will be at Kedron. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. on March 6.

Fellowship Supper

Our March Fellowship Supper will be Wednesday, March 13. The First Wednesday in March is Ash Wednesday. March 13 will be a soup and sandwich meal. We have a volunteer to make grilled cheese sandwiches. We need others to volunteer for at least two crockpots of soup, crackers, other sandwiches and desserts. Please contact Martha Fraley to let her know what food you would like to bring. Phone 615-896-5780
Email fraley154@gmail.com

Bible Study

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at the home of Lytle Hodge on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. The address is 507 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna.

Youth

The Youth met on February 23 at Stars and Strikes in Smyrna. The Faith Formation study got off to a good start. The group will meet at Kedron on March 23.

Bucket Offerings

In March our bucket offerings at Sunday morning worship will be donated to the Fisher House in Murfreesboro. This provides housing for families of patients at the Veteran's Administration Hospital.

Proverbs 16:23-24 was the quotation in the February newsletter.

Food Bank

You may bring food donations for the local food bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month. Place the food items on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to our local food bank. The suggested items for March are canned beans and bags of dried beans. All non-perishable foods are accepted.

Shared Lenten Study

Again this year there will be a shared Lenten study held at various churches - possibly Concord, St. Pauls, Eagleville, Lock's, Rover. Pastor Barry will announce the time and location of each study. The study begins on March 10 and ends on April 7. It looks to be a very engaging study. Pastor Barry has the study books Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton. The books are about \$11.00 each. Contact Pastor Barry if you are interested in the study.

Laity Meeting

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet at Smyrna First UMC on March 25. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. The church address is 301 Sam Davis Road.

Thank You

Thanks to John Vance, Linda Lee and Wayne Lee for your work to make a new church directory. This is much appreciated.

Happy Birthday to:

Mary Ellen Vance	March 4
Tanner Stacey	March 5
Ricky Fann	March 21
Frank Pagello	March 25
Rev. Barry Culbertson	March 27
Carol Dorn	March 31
Chaplain Rob Dunbar	March 31

Happy Anniversary to:

Doug and Dee Rouse	March 14
Rev. Travis and Margaret Perry	March 16
Gaylor and Carol Dorn	March 19

Where is this found?

"The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God and I will praise him...and I will exalt him."

NRSV (hint – Book of Exodus)

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter. (The six Sundays that fall during the 40 days of Lent stretch the season out a little.) The date of Ash Wednesday is always determined by the date of Easter. This year Ash Wednesday is March 6.

An ancient tradition for this day is to burn palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday and to use these ashes to make the sign of the cross on the forehead or the back of the hand. This is a symbolic way of saying, I'm sorry, and I want to change" a tradition that began long ago.

Sometimes the ashes are mixed with oil, which is a sign of healing and blessing. This reminds us that when we ask God for forgiveness, God helps us turn our lives around and start again.

The Season of Lent

The Sundays are not included in the season of Lent because each Sunday is, in its own way, a celebration of the resurrection. Thus, officially, the Sundays are counted as Sundays "in" Lent rather than "of" Lent.

The name of the season comes from the old English word *lengten* meaning Spring. Similar to the modern word *lengthen*, it simply meant that the days were getting longer. This reminds us that sometimes, faith symbols and seasons of the church year can have associations with the natural world.

The symbolism of 40 days parallels the time that the Gospels tell us Jesus spent in the wilderness. Traditionally it was a time for people to prepare for baptism at Easter, and later became a general season of self-reflection and repentance for all Christians.

March Calendar

Saturday, March 2: World Day of Prayer

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, March 3: Transfiguration Sunday

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 5:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, March 6:

6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
at Kedron

Sunday, March 10: 1st Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time begins.

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Shared Lenten Study begins.

Tuesday, March 12:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, March 13:

6:30 p.m. Soup and Sandwich
Fellowship Supper

Sunday, March 17: 2nd Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 19:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, March 23:

Time to be decided Youth Faith Formation
Group meets at Kedron.

Sunday, March 24: 3rd Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. April newsletter

Registration due. Email:

Monday, March 25:

6:30 p.m. Rutherford Co. Laity at
Smyrna First UMC

Tuesday, March 26:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, March 31: 4th Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Jesus Is the Way

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Find the path that leads to Jesus.

